GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3001
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
HELICOPTER SERVICES FOR TOURISTS SPOTS
Meinya Dr. Thokchom;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pawan Hans profit margin has come down this year as compared to preceeding years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of helicopters put in service by Pawan Hans at present as Air - taxi for public in North - East region;

(d) whether helicopter services are going to be extended to other parts of the country, particularly to pilgrim centres and tourists spots which are located in different areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- The performance of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) during the financial year 2006 - 07 was lower than the previous year due to lower fleet serviceability and higher number of helicopters under major structural repairs including Aviation Standard 4 fitment requirements under ONGC new contract. Further, major expenditure on account of repair and overhaul of water ingressed components damaged in the major flood in Mumbai in July, 2005 has also been accounted for during the year 2006 -07. In addition the Mi - 172 helicopters could not be made available as these were sent for major overhaul in Russia.

(c):- At present in North Eastern Region, PHHL has provided helicopters on long term lease/wet lease to Governments of Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland for regular passenger services for general public being run under the aegis of the respective State Governments as per their requirements.

(d)and (e):- Yes, Sir. PHHL has provided helicopters on long term lease to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Administrations for regular passenger services. Passenger services are also being provided to Kedarnath during May - June and September - October and Amarnath Dham. PHHL has plans to connect important tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu - Coimbatore, Madurai, Kodaikanal, Rameshwaram etc.; in Puducherry - Chennai - Karaikal - Puducherry Sector through lease of helicopter. PHHL also plans to further diversify and connect important adjoining tourist places in Utttrakhand such as Ghangharia, Hemkund Sahib etc.